Caticugan. This section will first describe the dulot and then explain the distribution and variations of the ceremony in the different barrios in comparison with Caticugan.

The dulot is held before the corn is harvested in either caingins or lowland fields. There appear to be three major purposes for holding the dulot. First, it is an act of recognition of unseen spirits who, if not properly honored, can make the cultivators ill. Second, the dulot is an act of respect and honor to the kalags (souls) of previous owners of the field. Since land is seldom sold in the lowlands these souls normally are the parents of the cultivators.[44] The dulot is "like rent for the land" or a "payment" to the souls of former owners. A widespread belief is that these souls, if angered, can make the field workers sick; fever and stomach troubles are the most frequent afflictions caused by the angry spirits or unhonored souls. Third, the dulot is a premicias sa baul ("Thanksgiving for the field," i.e., for the harvest) to God.

The dulot is an obvious blend of paganism and Catholicism. Animism and reverence for the souls of the dead are pre-Spanish beliefs. Catholicism certainly reinforced the honoring of the dead; this may have been one reason why Catholicism was disseminated so easily in the

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[44] In the caingins the offering is made to the souls of one's departed parents.

law stated that 16 hectares (about 39 acres) would be the maximum public land sold to an individual while 1,024 hectares (about 2,530 acres) was the limit to be sold to corporations. "While this policy has been circumvented in a good many individual cases it has never been replaced or intrinsically liberalized" to the present.[7] 423

Today there are three methods by which Filipinos (and Americans) can obtain public lands. First, the free issue of land to an individual under a program resembling the homestead regulations in the United States. Second, purchase of public land through the Bureau of Lands. Third, obtaining a lease on a parcel of land, the charge depending on the land's appraised value. Under certain conditions these leases may be renewed every twenty-five years. The last two methods are normally beyond the economic means of the average Filipinos and only a small amount of land has been granted in these ways. 423 425

American policy in the Philippines abolished the Spanish head tax, enforced labor, restrictions upon personal movement and the requirements of the Church and officialdom. However, the tax on land, in contrast with the Spanish system, became an important source of revenue for the American administration in the Philippines. The 423

[7] Spencer, op. cit., p. 117.